

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Parking Central parking meter (100) for controlling a plurality of parking spaces, comprising: with an input device for means of payment; a selection device (3) for selecting a parking time to be paid; and with an indicating device (7, 8, 9) for indicating a paid parking time and with a central control device (6); ~~characterized in that a return device is provided for the return payment of an amount of money corresponding to the parking time which has not been used; and a display for indicating a paid parking time as well as visual indicating device (7) is provided for indicating an amount of money which has not been used,~~ the central control device (6) includes a fee table and a time generator (4) for producing a clock signal so that the amount of the charge to be returned is calculated by the central control device (6), wherein the input device and the return device is a read-write unit (2) for a chip card (1), wherein a code is assigned to the chip card (1) whereby

the chip card is recognizable by the central control device (6)
when inserted in the read-write unit (2).

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) Parking meter according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that a~~ claim 1, wherein the selection device (3) is provided for the selection of a parking time to be paid and/or of a parking space, in particular a keyboard.

5. (Currently Amended) Parking meter according to ~~any of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it is provided with~~ claim 1, and further comprising a battery.

6. (Currently Amended) Method for centrally running ~~[[a]]~~ parking areas ~~area, in particular with a~~ central parking meter (100), comprising the steps of: selecting a parking time via a selection device (3); inserting a chip card (1) of a user into a read-write unit (2) of the parking meter (100); assigning a central control device (6) of the parking meter (100) assigns a

code to the chip card (1), which code assigns a credit account;
charging an amount of money corresponding to the selected parking
time from the chip card (1) and verified by the credit account;
indicating the selected parking time with an indicating device
(7, 8, 9) of the parking meter (100); overseeing the parking time
using a time generator (4) of the central control device (6);
~~and, according to any of the claims 1-5, whereby a parking time~~
~~is paid in advance to a parking meter via an input device,~~
~~characterized in that,~~ if the parking time is terminated before
expiration of the already paid parking time, the chip card (1) is
inserted into the read-write unit (2) and is connected with the
credit account via the code, the observed parking time is
compared with the selected parking time and based on the
difference a the corresponding amount of money is determined by
the central control device (6) and the amount is returned by a by
a credit on the chip card (1), and the charge to be returned
~~return device and~~ is reproduced by a visual indicating device
(7).

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the~~
~~claims 6 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein a parking
~~time and/or~~ a parking space is selected via the selection device
(3).

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the~~
~~claims 6 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 6, wherein the parking
meter is operated with a battery.

11. (New) Parking meter according to claim 1, wherein the
selection device (3) is configured for selecting a parking space.